

Senior Artists Alliance

QUICK NEWS

- MARCH 2009 -

The SAA *Quick News* has been designed to provide information to those members who **do not have email** or those who prefer a "snail mail" brief summary of SAA information. Our extensive but easily usable web-site provides complete information about our activities and useful links for additional information. We encourage all members to access the web-site so they may be informed of all up-coming events, exhibits, and useful information. Just enter www.seniorartistsalliance.org into your browser, then click, the SAA web page will appear in a few short moments! In order to cut down on the cost of printing and mailing *QUICK NEWS* we plan to discontinue "snail mailing" to all members. Instead, we encourage members to access information on the web-site. We will continue to "email" notices related to special events and monthly meetings. For those who do not have access to email and for those who rather have *QUICK NEWS* "snail mailed" to your home, please contact: August Spector, 301-251-8722

FUTURE EXHIBITS

- ▶ **Glenview Mansion, Rockville**
October 4 through 27, 2009
- ▶ **Bohrer Activity Center, Gaithersburg**
Nov. 20, 2009 through January 18, 2010
- ▶ **Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring**
April 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010
(limited to 20 wall hangings)
- ▶ **12th Annual JCC Senior Art Show** scheduled for
May 17 through May 31 is full

■ **AARP Foundation 2010 Calendar Contest**
Call for Artists -- Pastel, oil, acrylic, or watercolor
Original artwork. Theme is "There's Nowhere I'd
Rather Be" Winning artworks will be exhibited at
AARP's National Event & Expo in Las Vegas,
October 22 -24. Call 1-888-687-2277 or
<http://aarp.org/calendarcontest>

FUTURE SAA MEETINGS

- March 28** Professor Michael Farrell (painter)
From Realism to Abstraction & Back Again
 - April 18** George E. Sakkal
Nouveau Collage
 - May 2** Sam Noto (meet at his home)
 - June 20** Bonita Tabakin
- All meetings begin at 2 p.m. at the Davis Library
Unless noted.....**

UP-GRADE MAILING LIST

We are upgrading the SAA mailing list. People on this list are invited to our shows and receptions. Please email names and addresses of friends, family, past purchasers for the SAA mailing list to:
stuartglickman@gmail.com

HAVE YOU VISITED THE SAA Web-Site?

Our new web site is up and running. It provides all current information about our exhibits and our monthly meetings, plus lots more for our membership of 140+ senior artists. The web site address is:

www.seniorartistsalliance.org

SAA Board members hard at work!

SAA Board members are your representatives who help make our activities possible. We are always looking for members who would like to join the Board. Contact:

Paul Pincus, Chairperson, 301-527-1585
Vice Co-Chairperson, Stan Rosen, 301-571-4901
Treasurer, Joe Homes, 301-986-9482
Secretary, Mary Ellen Gordon, 301-421-4033
Membership, Stuart Glickman, 301-279-2355
Website, Stuart Glickman, 301-279-2355
Quick News, August Spector, 301-251-8722
Publicity/Advertising, Bonita Tabakin, 301-762-8789
Exhibit Chair, Florence Gang, 301-656-3430
Hospitality, Regina Price, 301-460-3382
Muriel Ebitz, 301-365-7756
Program, *Vacant*
Telephone Committee, *Vacant*

WHAT' IN YOUR QUICK NEWS ?

The Quick News and our web-site are yours. Everyone likes to know about your art, your awards, galleries you visited. Send information to us:
spectorworkplace@comcast.net or
stuartglickman@gmail.com

SAA's February Artist Meeting
Professor Komelia Hongja Okim
Artist Extraordinaire

On February 21st we had the pleasure of listening to Ms. Okim. Ms. Okim. Originally a textile major she moved into metallurgy while attending Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, Korea and Indiana University in Bloomington. When she came to Montgomery College Ms. Okim taught weaving, currently she teaches teaching jewelry making. We all learned much from the many pictures of Ms. Okim's metal and glass sculptures, table pieces, and jewelry. Many of her pieces were abstract landscapes, which included figures, showed wheat fields and mountains. Other lovely pieces included wedding sets and coffee pot sets. Her sculptures appeared light and flowing as if the figures were in motion with hair blowing in the breeze. Her sculptures and jewelry, usually done in silver, include gold fused into the silver while experimenting with various techniques to create a patina finish.

Although her works can be large she often reproduces them as smaller brooches. She has some bronze work. Much of her work shows an Asian influence and described framing methods that are uniquely Korean. In addition, Ms. Okim has printed digital images onto silk, mounting the silken image in a frame, then attached silver figures to the final piece of art. Indeed, extraordinaire!



THE FINE ART OF COLLAGE
GEORGE J. E. SAKKAL
APRIL 18, 2009



Our April meeting will be a real treat for everyone. George Sakkal is a well known collage artist and powerful teacher. His surreal collages reflect post modern ideas -- reflecting conceptions related to art,

science, politics, and ideology. Exciting textual pieces, his collages utilize many scraps of paper, photographs from National Geographic, textual materials, and a whole lot more. Trained as an architect he practiced in Texas, New York, Maryland...unique and beautiful designs coming from his mind translated onto paper and built into structures. It's been written about Sakkal, "he is no minimalist, not in life or art...an intense man, slight in build but formidable in presence, he has trouble sitting still long enough to talk about his 40-year journey toward fine art...he radiates an unblinking intensity that'd make you guess cult leader or mad bomber or even a macho, tension-steel sculptor type...before ever landing on his real profession: retired architect turned collagist." Sakkal has said, "I've done what the impressionists have done. They changed painting by altering the brushstroke. I've changed the way paper is regarded in terms of its use. I believe you can paint with paper. No one has done with collage what I'm doing."

Although using architecture as his economic profession, Sakkal's real love is fine arts: utilizing a variety of techniques and discovering new ones. In 1979 he volunteered as an architect going to Iran where he had an opportunity to observe the demise of the Shah. From Iran he journeyed to Harvard University in pursuit of a master's degree in city planning. Harvard, impressed with his theories, eventually offered him a position in the department, which he turned down. ("If I accept this, I'll never do art. I'll be stuck in a library for the rest of my life.") After a few years he landed in Maryland to take an agricultural position at the State's Department of Planning, subsequently beginning a doctoral program in city planning at UMBC. Disgusted with petty politics, frustrated with his circuitous career path, always wanting to "do fine art," he left to concentrate on his true calling.

Sakkal is a strong person with much perseverance and goal orientation. He has overcome tragedy which would probably place any artist on the retired list. After a serious bicycle accident causing extreme damage to both of his hands, he was told by his doctors that although his hands could be repaired he'd only be able to perform basic manual tasks -- dressing, eating -- but certainly not anything requiring the rudimentary use of his fingers, as playing the guitar or doing collage. Well, as we will all find out.

George Sakkal over came his disabilities to create beautiful original and meaningful fine collage art. We hope you will be able to attend and have the opportunity to meet George Sakkal at our April 18th SAA meeting, at our usual Davis Library location.

